The Bishop is coming for a visit. . .

A fun guide for children in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has a bishop and a bishop suffragan, or assistant bishop.

Our bishop is THE RT. REV. M. THOMAS SHAW, SSJE (we call him Bishop Tom).

Bishop Shaw was consecrated a bishop in 1994 and became the 15th bishop of Massachusetts in 1995. He is a member of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, a religious order of priests and lay brothers in the Episcopal Church. They are monks and they live at their monastery in Cambridge, or at their farm and retreat center, Emery House, in West Newbury, MA.

Bishop Shaw travels frequently and leads groups to the Holy Land, Africa and Central America. He works to make friends and stronger partnerships with other Episcopal and Anglican churches around the world. He is also helping us in this diocese to be better at working for peace in the world and helping people in need have better places to live and healthier lives.

"What I love most about being a bishop is visiting parishes. I love the community of parishes and all the generations of people being with God. I love the Barbara Harris Camp and going to Central America with members of the YLA (Youth Leadership Academy). I love going to Africa and Israel and Palestine with our college students. I love to learn from all of you about God and Jesus."

Bishop Shaw has three favorite hobbies:

- "I like to make pottery in my studio."
- "I love to read."
- "I like to work out."

Which of these is NOT something that Bishop Shaw helped to start:

A. The Epiphany Middle School in Dorchester
B. The Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center in NH
C. Cowley Publications
D. The Red Sox
E. The Life Together intern program for Young Adults
F. Esperanza Middle School in Lawrence

Question for Bishop Shaw:
What does the "M" stand for in "M. Thomas Shaw, III"?

What does it mean to be a bishop?

" . . . You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant; to ordain priests and deacons and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ."

Book of Common Prayer 517, Ordination of a Bishop

Bishop Tom's favorite passage from the Bible is Romans 8:37-39

. . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What's your favorite passage in the Bible?

THE RT. REV. GAYLE ELIZABETH HARRIS, Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris was ordained and consecrated a bishop on Jan. 18, 2003, at Trinity Church in Boston. She serves as bishop suffragan (assisting bishop) in the Diocese of Massachusetts. What she likes most about being a bishop is visiting a different church every Sunday and meeting new brothers and sisters in God.

Here is why Bishop Gayle loves the Episcopal Church:

- We welcome everybody to worship with us and be a part of us.
- We are like a big tent – room for all kinds of people!
- There aren't any tests to be an Episcopalian; people from other churches and faiths are welcome.
- We don't have to agree on everything, and it is okay to ask questions and not be absolutely sure.
- Believing in God is about love, not a list of *no's* and *don't's*. Instead, being an Episcopalian is saying *Yes, to life*!
- We have many different ways to pray and worship God.
- We sing all kinds of music with many instruments from around the world.
- We give great parties with good food…every Sunday and other times too.
- We laugh a lot and have lots of joy.
- We know that to love God we must love others.
- We care about life on this planet: people, animals, plants, water, air – everything created by God.
- As Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, we know God is too big to be a part of only certain groups.
- **God loves all of us all the time – even when we aren't sure!**

Bishop Gayle has a dog named Piccola (Italian for "Little One") a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who sometimes comes to work with her at the diocesan offices.

Do you have a pet?

Bishop Gayle loves to sing and has two favorite hymns from two different hymnals.

*From Lift Every Voice and Sing, hymn #2 ***Behold Your God***

***** From the Hymnal 1982, hymn #711 ***Seek Ye First***

Do you know these hymns? Can you find them in the hymnal? What is your favorite song to sing in church?

Bishop Gayle's favorite passage from the Bible is Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

What's your favorite passage in the Bible?

What does a bishop wear?

When the bishop comes to a church for a visitation, he or she wears a cope and a mitre, and carries a crozier. Bishop Tom and Bishop Gayle each have sets of copes with matching mitres for each liturgical season. These were made especially for them when they became bishops. When they come to visit your church their vestments will match the specific color of our church calendar.

Check to see if the bishops match the colors in your church when they walk in the door.

The Bishop's Vestments

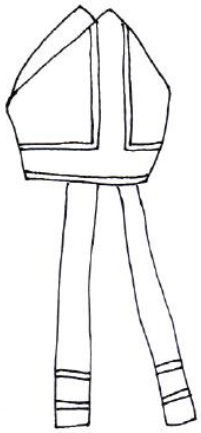
The cope

The cope is a very long cape or cloak, open in front and fastened across the chest with a band or clasp.

The crozier

The crozier is a staff carried by a bishop. It is in the shape of a shepherd's crook, and reminds us of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The mitre

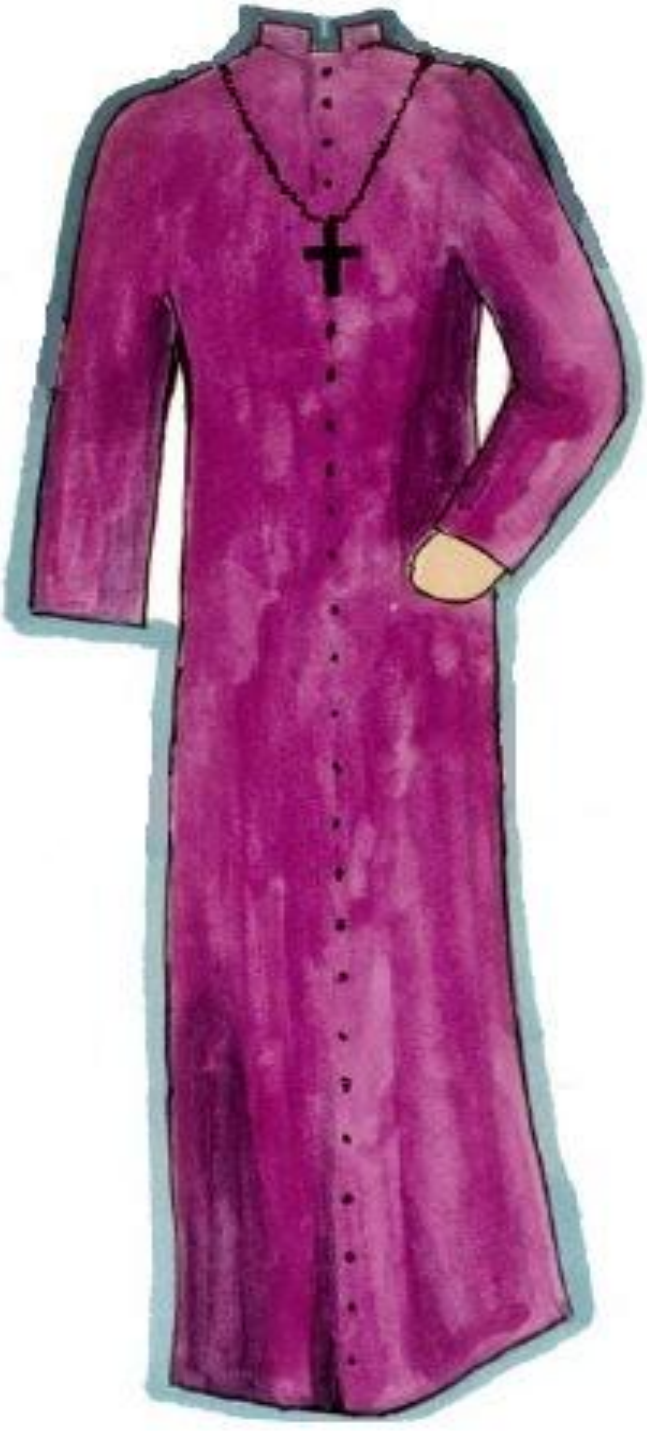


The bishop will usually wear a mitre, a pointed hat that symbolizes the point of flame that the disciples, who became apostles, received at the first Pentecost. We remember that the bishop is a successor to these apostles. The mitre has "lappets" or tails that hang down the back.

More Bishop's Vestments

The cassock

The bishop wears a purple cassock that belts at the waist. A cassock is something like a long robe, which often has buttons down the front.

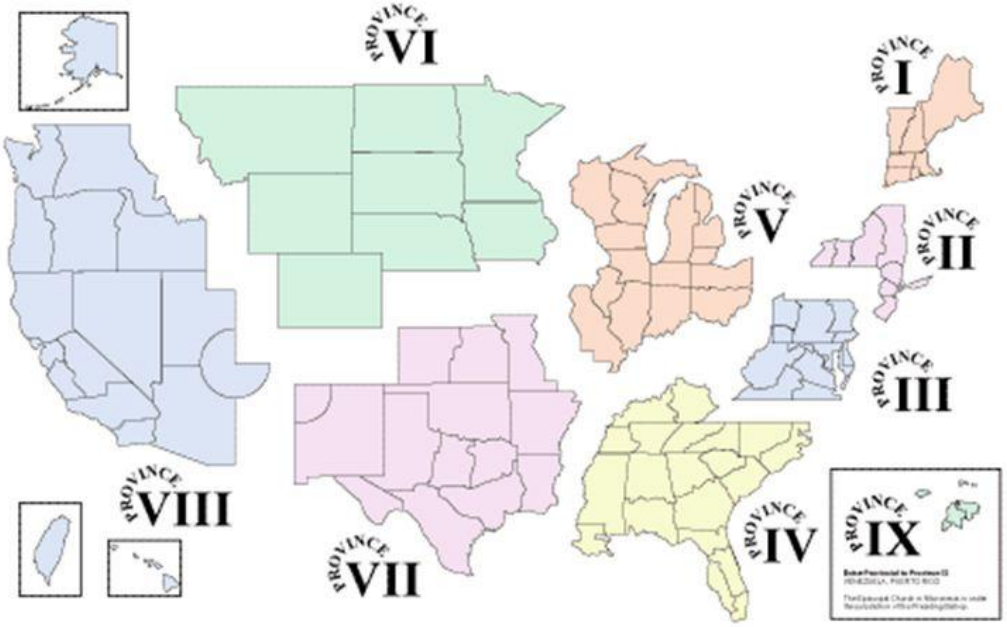


The rochet and chimere

Over the cassock the bishop wears a white rochet - a funny word pronounced like 'rocket', except instead of a 'k' it's a soft 'ch' sound, like the 'ch' in 'church'. The rochet has billowy sleeves gathered and enclosed with wrist bands. Over this a bishop wears a red chimere (pronounced 'shimeer'), which is like a long vest open in the front.

Question for the bishop: Does it get hot wearing all these layers?

What is a Diocese?



Think of a diocese kind of like a state. In fact, the Episcopal Church was set up by a lot of the same people who helped to shape the government and Constitution of the United States. Because of that, a lot of our structure looks similar to U.S. government. So all the dioceses together make up the Episcopal Church, but each diocese is a geographical area with a bishop. Each diocese is in a Province. **Can you find where we are on this map?**

The Diocese of Massachusetts

The Diocese of Massachusetts is one of the largest dioceses in terms of population in the United States. We are made up of 185 parishes and chaplaincies. Our chaplaincies are at places like Harvard University and St. Paul's School in Andover. We have some very old churches (more than 300 years) including Christ Church, Quincy; St. Paul's, Newburyport; and Old North Church in Boston.

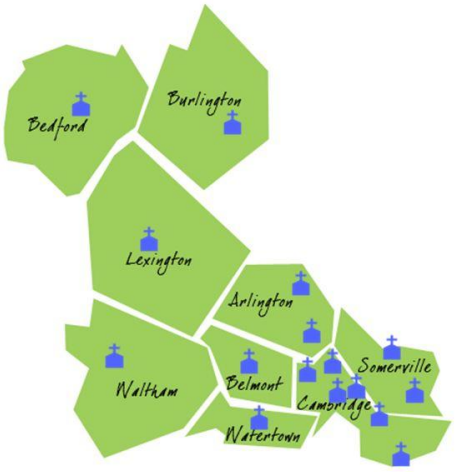
Originally we were not just the diocese in eastern Massachusetts, but for all of New England except Connecticut. As the Episcopal Church grew, other dioceses were formed beginning with eastern Massachusetts in 1810.

The diocese is divided into 12 deaneries in order for neighbor churches to help one another and share resources with other Episcopal churches close by them.

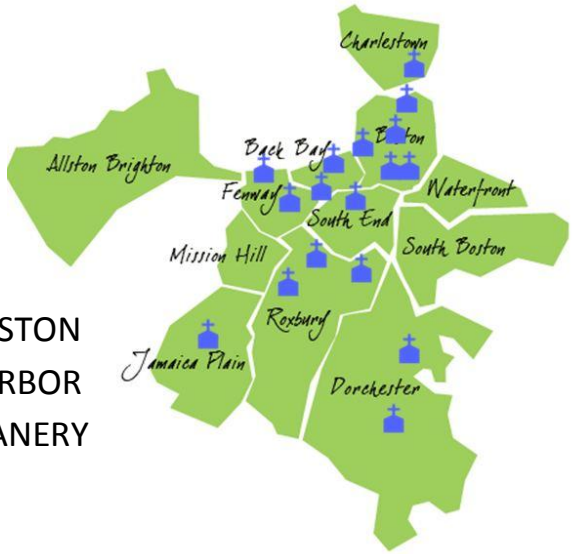
Can you find which deanery your church is in?

Here are the individual deaneries – Find which of the symbols is for your church. . .

ALEWIFE DEANERY

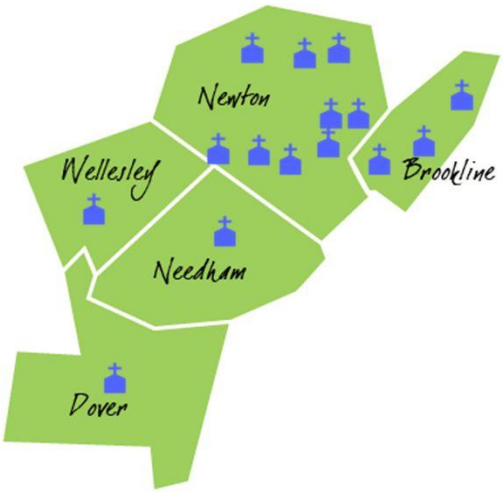


BOSTON HARBOR DEANERY

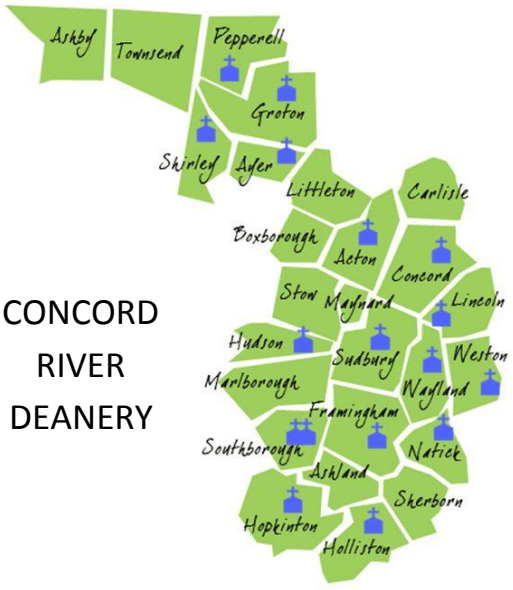


CAPE & ISLANDS DEANERY

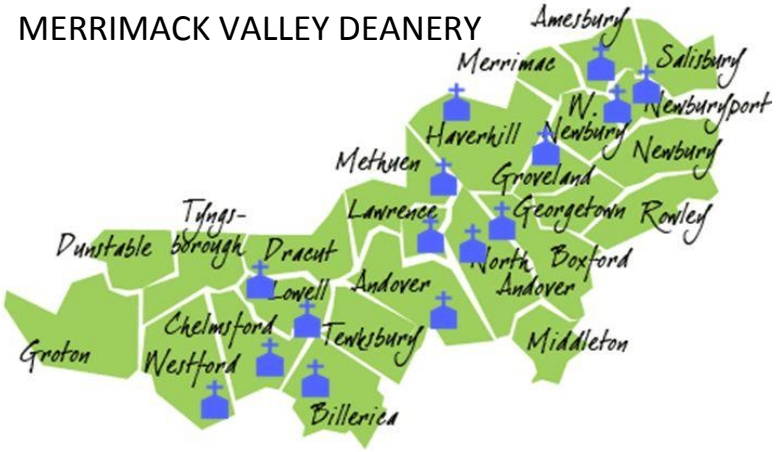
CHARLES RIVER DEANERY



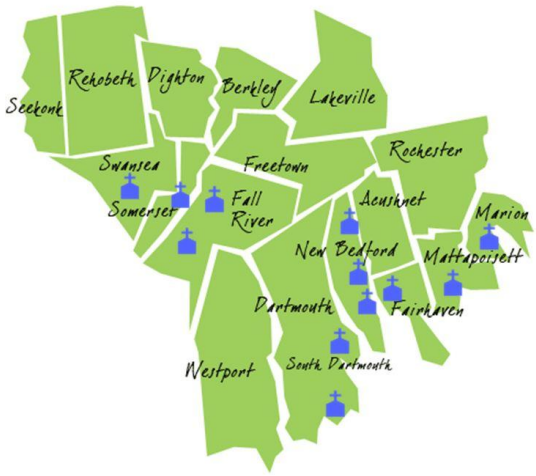
CONCORD RIVER DEANERY



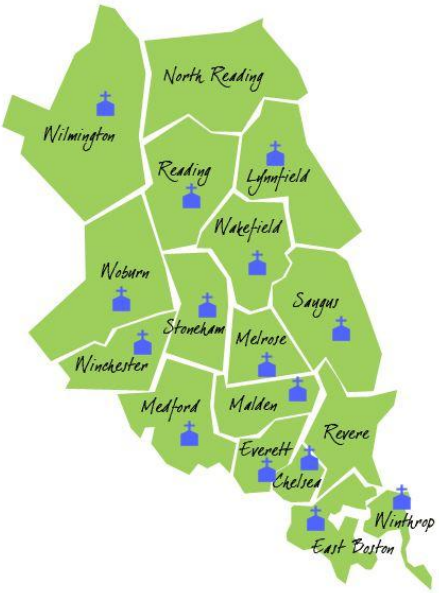
MERRIMACK VALLEY DEANERY



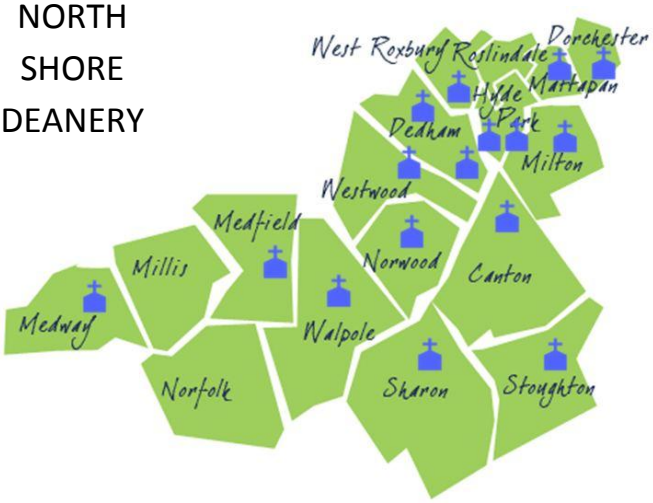
MT. HOPE-BUZZARDS BAY DEANERY



MYSTIC VALLEY DEANERY



NORTH SHORE DEANERY



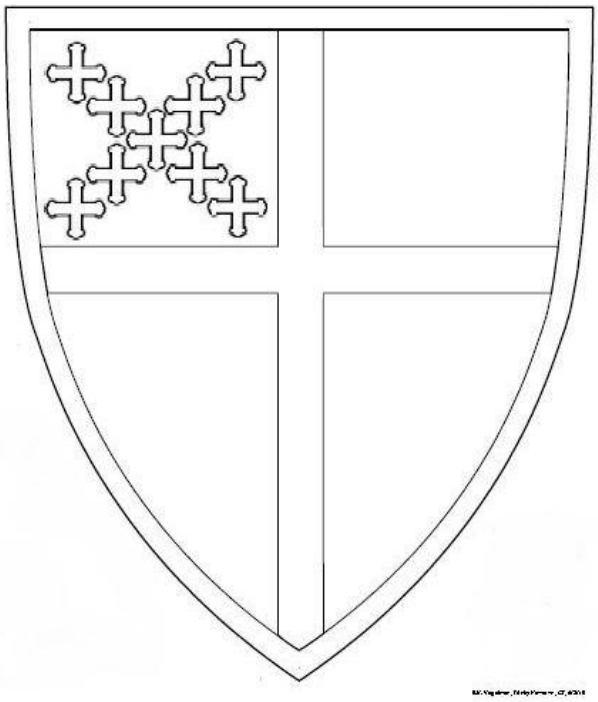
NEPONSET RIVER DEANERY

SOUTH SHORE DEANERY

TAUNTON RIVER DEANERY

Symbols of the Episcopal Church

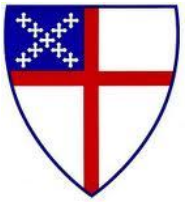
Episcopal Shield



The large, red cross that divides the shield is a cross of St. George, the cross of the Church of England, and it represents our ties with our mother church.

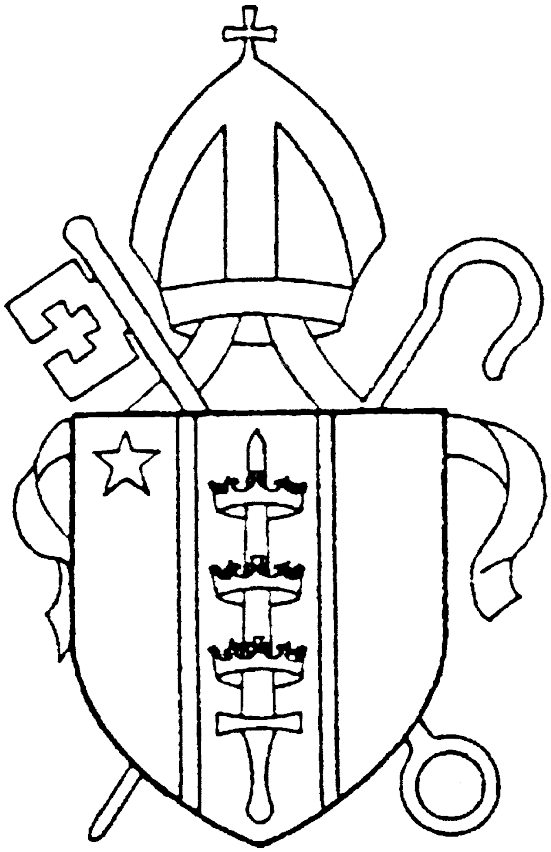
There are nine small crosses arranged in a St. Andrew's Cross, the cross of the Church of Scotland. This cross honors the role the Church of Scotland played in the birth of the Episcopal Church in America by ordaining our first bishop - Bishop Seabury in 1784.

Each of the nine small crosses in the St. Andrew's Cross represents one of the nine dioceses that in 1789 founded the Episcopal Church in America. The shield's layout is similar to an American flag.



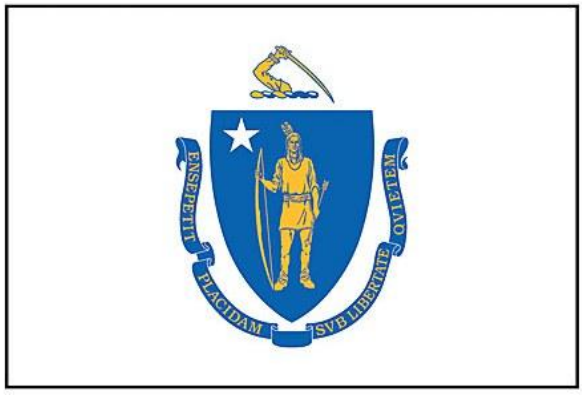
Can you color the shield following the colors to the right?

The Diocesan Shield for Massachusetts



Around 1900 this shield was designed for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and references our state flag. The original background was blue with a star like the flag. The sword is a traditional symbol of St. Paul and reminds us that the seat of the bishop in our diocese is St. Paul's Cathedral. The three crowns come from the coat of arms for Boston, England.

What other symbols do you see in the seal?



MA state flag

The Diocese of Massachusetts

What is a Cathedral?

"A **cathedral** is a church that contains the diocesan bishop's seat, throne, or **cathedra**. The cathedral is the principal church of the diocese. As the symbol and center of diocesan ministry, the cathedral is an appropriate place for diocesan celebrations and episcopal services.

The **dean** is the clergyperson with pastoral charge of the cathedral. The dean may be assisted by other clergy, known as **canons**. Some cathedrals also have honorary canons who do not share in the daily pastoral responsibilities of the cathedral.

The **cathedral chapter** consists of members who serve as the vestry in all matters concerning the corporate property of the cathedral and the relations of the cathedral parish to its clergy. Not all Episcopal dioceses have cathedrals, and most cathedrals are parish churches used for diocesan purposes."

(Thanks to the online dictionary for the Episcopal Church at www.episcopalchurch.org)

Cathedral Church of St. Paul

In the diocese of Massachusetts, our cathedral is the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. The diocesan offices are in the building right behind the church. Built in 1820 and established originally as St Paul's Parish, it was the first example of Greek revival architecture in Boston. (Doesn't it look like a Greek temple?)

Nearly 100 years later, Bishop William Lawrence turned the parish into the Cathedral, calling it "A House of Prayer for all people." Located in downtown Boston, near the State House and City Hall, the church is strategically located as a diocesan center and a voice of the church in the world. To show unity with its Anglican tradition, stones from St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and St. Botolph's Church, Boston, England, were incorporated into the building, and a stone from Valley Forge represents its conception as an American church. Because of its location in the heart of Boston, our cathedral tries to help the poor and homeless right in the middle of Boston. Also, our cathedral is often host for many significant diocesan events including annual diocesan conventions, confirmations, and ordinations.

Our Cathedral is having a birthday! St. Paul's turns 100 in October 2012!

Diocese of Massachusetts
Word Search

Can you find the words listed below?
Circle each word as you find them.

E E W B E C A T H E D R A L G Y I Y
N G Y E R W P A I T M R B P P C U Q
A E L O V L I D F S C O I Q W R E L
R I S H N A R I I E N C S U H O M A
Q S W R J P N O V I S H H E C Z Y V
W D S A Z O I C I R T E O B R I Y I
Y N D T N C E E S P T T P S U E X T
L G D S O S K S I B E Z M L H R P S
O M E C I I A E T P S X H P C F G E
J P A H T P K U A M U S T O L E L F
N E N A A E E A T L H A C F I L Z I
W R E S R P S X D W C Y P L N Q Z Z
D T R U C K A I Q F A D Z K B E B C
I I Y B E Z P M B M S B A P T I Z E
V M U L S E T W V N S E D T M R A E
M X Q E N S G E D A A G M Q W E H J
Z U Q G O M G N I R M I E Z J I S D
F W J O C T W B K S M C O N F I R M

Baptize	Cross	Mitre
Bishop	Crozier	Priest
Cathedral	Deanery	Ring
Chasuble	Diocese	Rochet
Church	Episcopal	Star
Confirm	Festival	Stole
Consecration	Massachusetts	Visit

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